Barb’s Notes and Quotes…

Dear Southwest Region Educators and Staff:

June is “busting out all over”! Hope you have enjoyed the pretty days we have had recently. We have lots of 4-H camps being held the next couple weeks, field days will soon be starting, and ServSafe classes are in great supply.

**Office Conferences**

County Extension Directors have the assignment of taking leadership to make sure our County Extension Offices are running smoothly, have a positive image in the community, and are known as the place to get research based information in our four program areas. Educators, program staff and support staff are expected to cooperate in helping to reach these goals. One important way all staff can assist is to attend office conferences and staff meetings. Everyone’s participation is needed to build your team. All staff also need to keep their CED informed well ahead of time as to vacation or scheduled leave they plan to take so appropriate staffing can be arranged. Let’s work as a team in providing the best customer service possible for our clientele. Please give me a call if you have questions about this.

Have a great week! Until next time . . . live your life with passion and purpose.

Best Always,

Barb

**Southwest Region Welcomes....**

On May 31, the Southwest Region welcomes:
Jennifer Ruff, Program Assistant, Miami County.
Emily Callen, Program Assistant, EFNEP, Montgomery County
Meighan Schutte, Program Assistant, EFNEP, Clark County
Happy June Birthdays…

• June 1 Lori Now, Program Assistant, Auglaize County
• June 3 Wayne Dellinger, Extension Educator, Union County
• June 4 Melissa Walters, Office Assistant, Miami County
• June 6 Erin Fawley, Program Assistant, Greene County
• June 8 Lee Ann Hiatt, Office Assistant, Greene County
• June 20 Tanya North, Program Assistant, Montgomery County
• June 30 Natalie Miller, Program Assistant, Greene County
• June 30 Barbara Phares, County Director/Educator, Mercer County

"It's not so much how busy you are, but why you are busy. The bee is praised. The mosquito is swatted." Mary O’Connor

Our to do lists are endless. The hassle of the day is a given. It only takes ten quiet minutes ... or ten minutes of your favorite passtime ... to refresh. It's an investment so that you actually see the next moment to be there for someone. It's not optional in this hectic world...it's required.

From Bolster Collaborative

Easy Ways for Teams to Celebrate

Prizes are either sweet like ice cream or sour like pickles. Any team member can submit a nominee for an award such as “most difficult client” or “best save,” etc.

MARVIN OLINSKY: NATIONAL 4-H HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

The vision that created Adventure Central in Dayton fulfilled the dream that Marvin Olinsky had to connect urban youth with nature in a positive context, with the goal of creating capable, caring and contributing citizens. His efforts that resulted in the Adventure Central partnership with Five Rivers MetroParks in Dayton, OSU Extension and 4-H, along with his lifelong commitment to 4-H, earned Marvin a place in the 2016 National 4-H Hall of Fame.

READ MORE...

Barb Brahm’s Schedule

• June 6 Campus
• June 7 Campus/Mercer County 4-H Camp
• June 8 Mercer County 4-H Camp
• June 9 Admin Cabinet
• June 10 Mercer County 4-H Camp
Hello, My name is Melinda Morrison. The pride and joy of my life are my 3, patient and loving kids who grew up way to fast. My oldest daughter, Leigha, is 24. She received her B.S and Master’s from Ohio State and works in marketing. She owns a house in Pickaway County. My other daughter, Shelby, is 20. She coaches gymnastics and manages the pre-team division of the gym in a suburb of Dallas, Texas. She also has her cosmetology license. My son, Austin, is 16. He loves his 1967 Chevy Impala car and plans to go to college and major in business.

A little about me, I am the 4-H Educator and County Director in Champaign County and currently serving as one of the LEAD CED’s. I have been with Extension for 12 years. I give all the credit to God for placing me where I am in Extension, He just gave me the long road to get here full of valuable experiences I grew up in Champaign County and very involved in the 4-H Program. I showed beef cattle, swine, and sheep. I was involved in every 4-H opportunity available. I always thought as a kid, I wanted Doug Dill’s job (former Champaign County 4-H agent for 30 years prior to me). At that point, my journey of experiences began.

After graduation from High School, I went to OSU to major in Agriculture. During my four years of college, I worked year round at the Ohio Expositions Center. Two years in the Finance Office (best job ever – helped pay the entertainers before concerts and meet them) and one year each in the Ag/Livestock Office and Personnel Office. These positions gave me valuable insider experience when working with present day clientele on state fair issues. Concepts of how things run are the same.

I graduated from OSU with a B.S. in Agricultural Economics, moved into a new house we just built, got married, and started first business all in the same month. (Whew – won’t do that again).

The first business started with one truck and over a 10-year period exceeded 100 trucks and approximately 150 employees. During the early years, I also owned an ice cream and pizza shop (employed teens – helpful today) and at one point I taught computer for 2 years at a Christian School and helped them set up their first classroom computer lab. Since there were no prior classes of this sort at the school, I had to develop a curriculum for K – 12 for computer classes.

Eventually my path was directed back to Champaign County with my 3 amazing children (10, 6, and 2 at the time). I had no idea what my new career would be, but in the back of my mind, 4-H was still there. My oldest daughter was showing steers and I was an advisor in another county until we moved. I started substitute teaching until I figured out where my path was taking me. I knew the 4-H position came open through retirement so I walked in the Extension Office and asked what was happening with that position since it hadn’t been filled for a few years. There was a hiring freeze on at that time for educators, but there was a water quality PA position about to open. Some of the current Extension staff, I knew from growing up in the county, encouraged me to try for the water quality position. Much to my surprise, I was placed in the position. This only lasted for 2 months and the 4-H position came open. I was hired as a program assistant for 4-H full time and quickly went back to school to get my Master’s Degree in Education. I received my degree in 18 months and waited for the hiring freeze to be lifted so I could to apply for the County Educator position. And so the journey continues 12 years later….

I love working with the kids and seeing them grow into successful young men and women and I enjoy still being able to utilize my passion for accounting and HR work. (I know, very strange). Being in Extension is all the things I enjoy doing for work wrapped into one. I am very blessed in family and career.
**Action Leadership Retreat**

Are you an educator who has been employed in OSU Extension for 18 months – 3+ years? Are you looking for a professional development opportunity which is built around simulated on-the-job experiences you encounter as an educator? If you do, the Action Leadership Retreat is for you.

**What is the Action Leadership Retreat?**

This **two day retreat** offers educators the opportunity to:

- Assess and reflect on your skills in key areas important to your success as an Extension educator.
- Interact with other Extension educators with similar tenure.
- Develop goals and initial plans for personal and professional development.
- Discuss and explore resources available to support your development as an educator.

To learn more about this professional development opportunity for educators, please click on [https://osu.box.com/v/ALRNOV892016](https://osu.box.com/v/ALRNOV892016)

**Dates of the Retreat are: November 8-9, 2016**

Registration Fee is $90
To register, please email Jody Termeer termeer.1@osu.edu with the following information: Name, County/Unit, Job Title and email address

Space is limited to seven participants for the retreat. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis!

Questions? please contact Beth Flynn flynn.61@osu.edu or 614-292-1251.

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**Tri-State Diversity Conference Session Proposals Due June 30, 2016**

The Tri-State Diversity Conference will be held February 16 & 17, 2017 in Hebron, Kentucky at the Cincinnati Airport Marriott (with Preconference February 15). The 2017 theme is Breaking Down the Walls: Building Inclusive Communities. Concurrent sessions are 75 minutes long. The **deadline** to submit session proposals is **June 30, 2016**.
InnovateExtension Recap: An Energizing, Innovative, and Inspiring Day . . .

The inaugural innovateExtension event was held May 12th, 2016 on Ohio State University’s campus. Twenty-two teams and more than 140 participants vied for funding for their ideas, projects, prototypes, and concepts. The following teams were awarded 3D-printed innovateExtension trophies and will work with OSU Extension Director Roger Rennekamp to secure funding for their innovative ideas and projects: Honorable Mention: Dayta Dreamers (Debby Lewis, Amy Elhadi, Kim Showalter, Suzanna Windon | Coach: Kevin Gamble) Pitch: Hiring a web developer, housed in the PDE unit, to design a “data portal”. The portal would be able to accept various types of data and generate multiple types of reports based on the data that will be accessible by a broad range of employees.

3rd Place Team: Live Healthy Live Well (Pat Brinkman, Michelle Treber, Lisa Barlage, Joanna Rini, Beth Stefura | Coach: Alice Henneman) Pitch: Expansion of the Live Healthy Live Well social media programming into a text-based message campaign, also including brief YouTube videos and hashtag creation and use.

2nd Place Team: Team GMO (Emily Adams, Lee Beers, Mary Griffith, Peggy Hall, Dianne Shoemaker | Coach: Hunter McBrayer) Pitch: A three-part plan to help Extension professionals excel with critical issues. Critical issues are not limited to controversial issues. They also include issues and situations that arise quickly and Extension personnel must address in a very timely manner. 1) Educator Training, 2) Identify Critical Issues at Annual Conference, and 3) Development and Implementation of a Protocol for Critical Issues
InnovateExtension Recap: An Energizing, Innovative, and Inspiring Day . . .

1st Place Team: Critical Conversations (Jackie Kirby-Wilkins, Jeff McCutcheon, Cindy Torppa, Lisa Siciliano-Miller, Laura Fuller, David Crawford, Debbie Brown | Coach: Daphne Richards) Pitch: Extension professionals are faced daily with having critical conversations with a variety of stakeholders (e.g., funders, elected officials, consumer, community partners, and families/friends). These conversations include relationship building, networking, collaborating, facilitating, mediating, and innovating. Critical Conversations provides a variety of resources (including Tool Kits and Skill Building) and strategies for developing competencies, comfort, and skills for addressing critical conversations.

Didn’t catch the Periscope’d live stream footage from the event? Watch all of them on the OSU Extension Ed Tech YouTube channel.
Attached are 2 pictures of things occurring in Mercer County. Number 852 is from one of the vegetable gardening classes (a series of 6 classes to be held during the summer months with the assistance of Master Gardeners in the county). Number 867 is during a visit to a local county farmer with a hops yard. OSU ACRE Intern Lora Buerning is with me and we will be assisting with weekly scouting of the hops plants. The farmer is a recipient of a SARE grant with his hops production. Also, no picture, but we are anxiously awaiting for Beth, the new Mercer County 4-H Educator to get started.

Denny Riethman